

West Nile Virus Newsletter

Zoonotic Disease Program, Washington State Department of Health

September 21, 2006

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Purpose

To keep our partners and other interested entities informed about West Nile virus (WNV)

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National, regional, and state surveillance update

Previous Issue

Idaho's Ada County spraying results are in

California's West Nile warning system

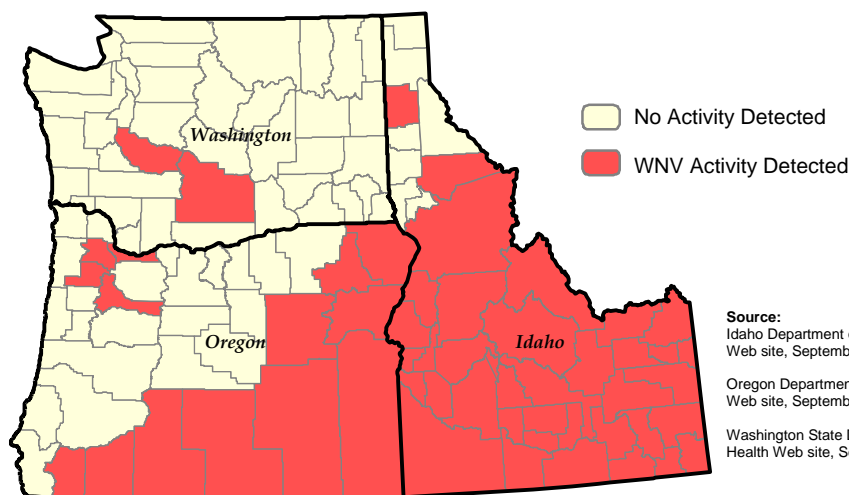
Journal articles from *Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases*

Crows slow to bounce back from WNV

Guidance for states doing bird surveillance for WNV and/or H5N1

View the [September 7, 2006](#) WNV Newsletter

West Nile virus activity in the northwest, 2006



WNV positive in the northwest

Washington: 1 human, 4 horses, 1 bird

Idaho: 779 humans, 319 horses, 114 birds, mosquito pools detected in 6 counties

Oregon: 47 humans, 23 horses, 15 birds, 23 mosquito pools

Pierce County man is state's first confirmed WNV case

Washington Department of Health, News Release, September 13, 2006

OLYMPIA - A Pierce County man in his forties is confirmed as the state's first human infection with West Nile virus. Blood tests at the state Public Health Laboratories were positive, so samples were sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which confirmed the positive result today. The man did not travel out of the state during the likely time he was bitten by an infected mosquito; he developed mild symptoms — a rash and fever — in July, sought medical attention in August, and has recovered. The disease is not spread person to person so he is not a threat to public health.

"Most people who are infected with West Nile virus don't ever get sick or have symptoms, yet it can be a very serious disease for a small number of people, especially those older than 50 years of age," said Dr. Jo Hofmann, State Epidemiologist for Communicable Disease. "Avoiding mosquito bites is the best prevention. With our first in-state infection, it's vital to take the simple precautions that can help protect you from West Nile infection."

Continue this news release at http://www.doh.wa.gov/Publicat/2006_news/06-143.htm and read the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's news release at <http://www.tpchd.org/news.php?id=170>.

Web Resources

Washington State
Department of Health
www.doh.wa.gov/wnv

Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile

US Geological Survey
ArboNET maps
diseasemaps.usgs.gov

Washington State
University Cooperative
Extension
www.wnv.wsu.edu

Washington State
Department of
Agriculture
www.agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/Diseases/WestNileVirus/default.htm

Northwest Links

Idaho Department of
Health & Welfare
www.westnile.idaho.gov

Oregon Department of
Human Services
<http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/diseases/wnile/survey.shtml>

British Columbia Center
for Disease Control
<http://www.bccdc.org/content.php?item=183>

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Contact Ben Hamilton
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WNV found in three more Yakima County horses

Washington State Department of Agriculture, News Release, September 14, 2006

OLYMPIA - West Nile virus has been confirmed in three additional horses in Yakima County. None of the animals had been vaccinated against the disease.

"The best way to protect a horse from West Nile infection is vaccination," said State Veterinarian Leonard Eldridge.

Read this news release at <http://agr.wa.gov/News/2006/06-39.htm>.

Dead bird from Yakima County tests positive for WNV

Washington Department of Health, News Release, September 20, 2006



OLYMPIA - A magpie from Yakima County has tested positive for West Nile virus. Four horses in Yakima County have tested positive for West Nile infection this season, and the first human case acquired in this state — a Pierce County man in his 40s — was confirmed last week.

According to the Washington State Department of Health, the magpie was collected last week near Union Gap and sent to the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Washington State University for testing. It's the first West Nile virus-positive dead bird in our state this season.

"Testing for West Nile virus in mosquitoes, horses and dead birds helps show where the disease is active," said Dorothy Tibbetts, director of the agency's zoonotic disease program. "These tests show West Nile is active in parts of eastern Washington. We put a lot of effort into monitoring and tracking the disease in our state because we know people are concerned. The best protection against West Nile infection is to avoid mosquito bites."

The magpie was collected and submitted by the Yakima Health District as part of the state Department of Health monitoring program. Many local and state agencies as well as private volunteer groups are participating in the monitoring.

Residents of Southwest Washington encouraged to take precautions against mosquito bites

Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, and Wahkiakum County Health Jurisdictions, September 12, 2006

Yesterday's announcement by Oregon health officials that two birds tested positive for West Nile Virus in Multnomah County is a reminder that the virus continues to spread and that people in nearby areas, including southwest Washington, should renew their efforts to protect themselves against mosquito bites.

"Some bird species such as crows, jays, and magpies are especially susceptible to West Nile Virus, and their sudden death can indicate the presence of the virus,"

National WNV Statistics for 2006

As of September 19th forty-eight states + DC and NYC have reported some type of West Nile virus activity to the CDC.

Humans

Total human case-patients: **2171**

Patients with meningitis and/or encephalitis: **829**

Total human deaths: **74**

Presumptively viremic blood donors: **176**

Avian

Total dead bird cases reported positive: **2880**

Number of corvids reported positive: **2329**

States/districts reporting positive dead birds: **41**

Veterinary

Total number of veterinary cases (2 other species, remainder are equines): **670**

States/districts reporting positive veterinary cases: **30**

Mosquito Pools

Total number of positive mosquito pools: **8401**

States reporting positive mosquito pools: **40**

Most frequent mosquito pool species reported positive:

1. *Culex tarsalis*
2. *Culex pipiens-restuans* (mixed)
3. *Culex pipiens*

Sentinels

Total number of sentinel infections reported positive: **501**

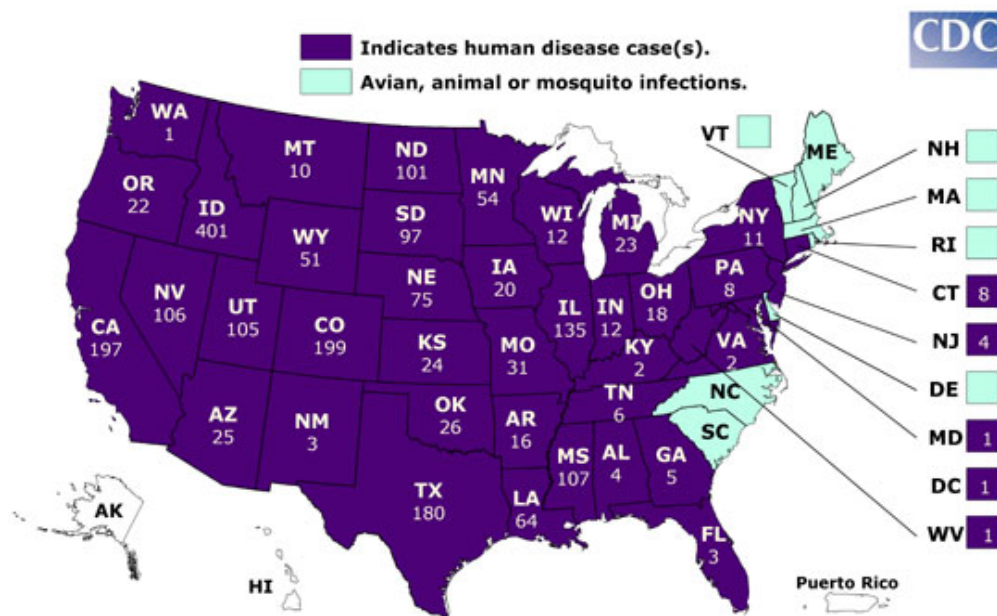
States/districts reporting positive sentinels: **11**

said Dr. Mimi Fields, Cowlitz County Health Officer. "Residents in southwest Washington can help health officials monitor the presence of West Nile Virus by reporting dead birds."

Read the entire news release at the Clark County Health Department's Web site, <http://www.co.clark.wa.us/news/news-release.asp?pkNewsSeq=1030>.

West Nile virus activity in the United States, 2006

Surveillance findings reported to CDC, September 19, 2006



National maps and data available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&control.htm>.

Mosquito group wants wider net

By Kaitlin Manry, *The Herald*, September 9, 2006

CAMANO ISLAND - They're smaller than the average fingernail and easily succumb to a well-placed slap. But these ladies have a penchant for blood.



Mosquitoes are enemy No. 1 to the Camano Island Mosquito Control District. The group is battling the pesky insects with more than the traditional Off! spray. It's employing surveillance traps, larvicides and a political campaign.

The group is collecting signatures to try to get a vote on the November ballot to allow enlarging the district's coverage area to include all of Camano Island. The mosquito district now serves just a sliver of land on the island's north end, an area about one-fifth of the island.

"I've gone to the state park on field trips with my kids, and it's awful," said District Manager Jay Lawrence, wearing a hat emblazoned with a mosquito and the words "Bite me."

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If the issue makes it onto the ballot and passes, Camano Island residents will be taxed between 5 and 25 cents per \$1,000 of the assessed value of their homes. Currently residents living within the district pay 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, equating to \$45 for a \$300,000 home.

The money funds the district's mosquito fighting efforts. In the future, it will also help the group map mosquito habitat, collect and identify mosquitoes, and educate homeowners on ways to eliminate mosquito breeding places, Lawrence said. As the district's only paid staff member, he makes \$30 per hour for the part-time job.

Continue reading this article at The Herald's Web site,
http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/09/09/100loc_b1camano001.cfm.

Washington environmental surveillance summary, 2006

Reported to DOH as of September 20, 2006

County	Horses*		Birds**		Sentinel Flocks***		Mosquito Pools****	
	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive
Adams	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Asotin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benton	2	0	3	0	267	0	281	0
Chelan	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0
Clallam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	1	0	1	0	0	0	31	0
Columbia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	0	0	10	0	0	0	94	0
Douglas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ferry	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	1	0	2	0	0	0	88	0
Garfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Grays Harbor	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Island	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
King	2	0	49	0	0	0	7	0
Kitsap	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kittitas	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Klickitat	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mason	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Okanogan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pend Oreille	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pierce	1	0	63	0	0	0	29	0
San Juan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skagit	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Skamania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snohomish	2	0	48	0	0	0	42	0
Spokane	7	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Stevens	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Thurston	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0
Wahkiakum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walla Walla	1	0	5	0	0	0	12	0
Whatcom	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Whitman	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Yakima	5	4	10	1	56	0	358	0
Totals	28	4	297	1	323	0	947	0

* County information was not available for 4 horses that tested negative. WADDL Report: September 14, 2006.

**A total of 302 birds have been tested for West Nile virus; 4 specimens unsuitable for testing, 1 specimen was from out-of-state. WADDL Report: September 20, 2006.

*** Sentinel Chicken Sera tested by Benton MCD Report: September 6, 2006.

**** Pools tested by USACHPPM-West Report: September 19, 2006, Benton MCD Report: September 6, 2006, Franklin County MCD Report August 22, 2006, Clark County MCD August 22, 2006, Cowlitz County MCD August 28, 2006, and Columbia MCD September 12, 2006.

View the WNV Avian Mortality Report at

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/WNV/Newsletters/dbreport/dbreport.pdf>.